Court, Nassik, against the orders of the Labour Court, after which the trainees sought a transfer of the case from Nasik to Industrial Court, Thane. They also gave an undertaking that they will not insist on implementation of the Labour Court's order till disposal of the case. Accordingly, the case has been shifted to Industrial Court, Thane, where it is pending.

Vacant post of Chairman of Cauvery Water Tribunal

550. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairman of Cauvery Water Tribunal is vacant;

(b) if so, since when it is vacant;

(c) the reasons for not filling up the post; and

(d) by when the post is likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is vacant since 1.7.96.

(c) and (d) The Chief Justice of India has been requested to nominate a suitable Judge to be the Chairman of the Tribunal. Filling up of the post depends on receiving the nomination from the Chief Justice of India.

Assault on Journalists by BSP Leaders

551. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some journalists were recently physically assaulted and abused by the BSP leaders in Delhi and later a rally of the journalists protesting against the behaviour of BSP leaders was teargassed by the police without any provocation;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry into the incident has been conducted by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The Delhi Police have registered two cases, one on the basis of a complaint lodged by a media person and the other by In-Charge Security of Ms. Mayawati, in connection with the incident reported to have taken place at the residence of Shri Kanshi Ram, Member of Parliament, on the 25th October, 1996. Shri Kanshi Ram, Member of Parliament, on the 25th October, 1996. A group of journalists protesting against this incident took out a procession on the following day and marched to the North Block after defying the prohibitory orders in force in the area. When the wamings of the police personnel filed to stop them from marchine further, the police had to fire some tear gas shells to disperse the gethering.

The Press Council of India had constituted a special fact-finding Inquiry Committee to look into the incident of the 25th October, 1996, but the Council subsequently decided not to proceed with the inquiry in view of the objections raised by the media persons.

Provision of telephone services at cheaper Rates in rural areas of Maharashtra

552. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of villages, district-wise, in the State of Maharashtra which are being covered by the scheme of "providing telephone services at cheaper rates in rural areas" during the year 1995-96 and the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and